

General Counsel

28 April 1950

Budget Officer

Transportation Requests Issued to Travel Agencies

STATINTL

1. After reviewing [redacted] memorandum of 3 April 1950 and the pertinent provisions of Public Law 110, it is desired to raise a question as to the propriety of paragraph 1 of the proposed Administrative Instruction since the waiver in Section 10 (b) of Public Law 110 relates only to the expenditure of funds "without regard to the provisions of laws and regulations". In the instant case, the applicable Government regulations prohibit the issuance of transportation requests to other than carriers.

2. In the event the question raised in the preceding paragraph is satisfactorily resolved, it is suggested that the following phrase be omitted from paragraph 1 of the proposed instruction: "provided that the following considerations are kept in mind". Since a determination as to whether the issuance of a transportation request to a "travel agency" is justifiable, is one of a personal nature and depends, to some extent, on indirect benefits and expediency, it would normally not be acceptable by the General Accounting Office.

3. It might be advisable to rephrase paragraph 2 or omit the following words --"clearly indicated that it is".

4. It is the considered opinion of this office that an instruction of this nature which should be signed by the Director would best serve its purpose if issued in the form of a Directive to the pertinent Agency official (s) rather than as an Administrative Instruction for general distribution. It is believed inadvisable to give wide distribution in connection with this type of instruction, which takes advantage of waivers of existing laws and regulations granted specifically to GAO, since it might occasion unnecessary requests for exceptions to laws and regulations generally applicable to Government Agencies.

E. R. SAUNDERS

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